

“ROCK 'N' ROLLERS SHOULD LIKE FOLK DANCING” (1957) *

[1g] Famous mathematicians have proved that a cube is a cube, a five-sided figure is a pentagon, but what defies any proving is that a square dancer is a “square.” That such a person is not a “square” barely takes any proving at all. Just look at the facts.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society are visiting the Island this week giving performances of their dancing for the Island’s enjoyment.

Said co-director, Miss E. Anderson, of the dancing course to the *Times* yesterday: “Rock 'n' roll’ has the vital rhythm about it. Those who like it will like folk dancing.”

As if to prove these statements is the fact that the members of the society dance to a skiffle song called “Cumberland Gap,” at present top-seller on the Island and one of the best sellers in England.

Other co-director, Mr Kenneth Clarke, also pointed out that other big hits, such as “Yellow Rose of Texas,” “Good-night, Irene,” and “Black-eyed Susie” were once folk dances coming in the range of the society, whose members also sing for enjoyment.

Numbering a hundred, the visiting dancers have given up part of their holidays in order to come here, the basic intention behind their visit being the interchange of folk dances, and therefore to keep counties and countries interested in folk dancing.

Another group, a little larger than the one performing at the [1h] Douglas High School for Boys, St Ninian’s section, has been visiting Jersey. Our visiting dancers leave the Island tomorrow.

Four musicians are with the group coming here, playing accordions and fiddles.

The hospitality of the Island was praised by the visitors, who said they had a very good time over here, and referred to the reception given to them by the Mayor as “magnificent.”

During their stay at different places, last year they were at the Lake District, and the dancers have been mistaken for Russians and Hungarians. So far, nothing like this has happened in the Island.

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“Rock ’n’ roll’ has the vital rhythm about it. Those who like it will like folk dancing.” More of a hope than a promise one feels with the rise of the “teenager” and a new musical culture: skiffle, rhythm and blues—and above all, rock ’n’ roll.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV